

Bilateral issues to be resolved thru' discussion

President tells new Indian HC

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said the bilateral issues with India, including the proposed Tipaimukh dam on the Barak river, will be resolved through discussion.

The president said this when newly appointed Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pinak Ranjan Chakraborty presented his credentials to him at the Bangabhaban.

Welcoming the new Indian envoy, the president said Bangladesh attaches great importance to its relations with India and is deeply committed to promoting peace, progress and development

through bilateral and regional cooperation.

He also stressed the need for inter-university linkage between Bangladesh and India, particularly with Dhaka University.

The president said the prosperity and economic development of Bangladesh and India are closely inter-related and it is necessary to intensify efforts to enhance economic cooperation between the two neighbouring countries.

Bangladesh would like to see greater cooperation and interactions with India in the field of trade and commerce, he said and hoped that both the countries would take appropriate measures to expand

and diversify economic and trade relations.

The president assured the high commissioner of all support and cooperation in discharging his responsibilities.

He requested the envoy to convey his best wishes to Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The Indian high commissioner termed the relations between India and Bangladesh "excellent" and said it would be further strengthened in the days to come through people-to-people contact.

He said he will take the issue of the proposed Tipaimukh dam with his government.



Khwaza Naim Murad speaks at a discussion marking the 92nd death anniversary of Nawab Sir Salimullah on the premises of Ahsan Manzil Museum in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Begum Shamsunnahar Khwaza Ahsan Ullah, Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Prof Emajuddin Ahmed.

Name street after Sir Salimullah

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Name a city street after Nawab Sir Khwaza Salimullah Bahadur in recognition of his contribution to the development of Dhaka city, demanded his successors at a discussion yesterday.

They also urged the government to set up committees at every district to pay due homage to great philanthropist on the occasion of his birth and death anniversaries.

The discussion was organised by the national committee to observe birth and death anniversaries of Nawab Salimullah marking his 92nd death anniversary on the premises of Ahsan Manzil Museum in the old city.

Speakers at the discussion highlighted the life and works of Nawab Salimullah.

They recalled the outstanding contribution of Salimullah to the advancement of education, especially madrasa education and politics as well.

While presenting a keynote

paper titled 'The role of Salimullah in the movement for education of Muslims in Bangla', Dr Md Alamgir, deputy keeper of Ahsan Manzil Museum, said Salimullah, who mainly patronised Islami ideology and modernised education, was eventually involved in politics.

In 1906, Salimullah took initiative to reform Madrasa curriculum since students completing education from there could not avail themselves of suitable jobs in comparison to non-Muslim students who used to receive education from mainstream institutions, he added.

"Many of us do not know that Ahsan Ullah Engineering School founded at the own initiative of Salimullah is now known as Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet)," said Alamgir.

Khwaza Ehsanul Haque Bhole, a successor of Salimullah, called upon the authorities concerned to observe both birth and death

anniversaries of Salimullah and name a city street after his name.

Talking to The Daily Star, actor Khwaza Naim Murad, a great grandson of Salimullah, lamented that the birth and death anniversaries of Salimulla, one of the great leader of the sub-continent, are not observed in a befitting manner at national level.

Naim also regretted that Sir Salimullah, as the founder of Bangladesh Muslim League, Kobi Nazrul College, Mitford Hospital and one of founders of Dhaka University, has not been given adequate exposure in the textbooks.

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka addressed the seminar as chief guest while Begum Shamsunnahar Khwaza Ahsan Ullah, daughter-in-law of Sir Salimullah, spoke as special guest.

Earlier, Qurankhwani and doa mahfil were held for the salvation of the departed soul.

Charges framed against Mirza Jalil, 8 others

Trial on Jan 21

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against Krishak League President Dr Mirza Abdul Jalil and eight others in a case filed under the Speedy Trial (Law and Order Disruption) Act.

The case was filed against them for damaging a police van and disrupting law and order at Shyamoli Ring Road in the capital during hartal hours on December 21 last year.

After scrutinising the case docket (CD) and other relevant documents of the case, Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rouf Khan of the Speedy Trial Court-2 framed charges against them and fixed January 21 for trial of the case.

Other accused are Jalil's personal secretary Naimul Haq, 25, assistant personal secretary Abdul Barek, 28, Ershad Hossain, 25, Humayun Kabir, 27, Kabir Ahmed, 22, Sekendar Ali, 23, Jamal Uddin, 25, and Abul Hashem, alias Hasu, 30.

Dr Jalil and others pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after the charges were read out to them.

Earlier on January 7, Sub-Inspector Golam Rasul, who is the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, showing 37 people as prosecution witnesses.

Police also implicated around 1000 to 1200 others under the same act, but the IO did not mention their names in the charge sheet.

In the charge sheet, the IO stated that the charges brought against them were initially proved and they should be brought under trial.

Police arrested Dr Jalil and others from the spot during the incidents. Later, they were granted bail by the court.

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Three to die for killing Khulna madrasa student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Khulna court yesterday sentenced three people to life imprisonment for killing a student of Nurul Ulum Hafizia Madrasa in 2004.

District and Sessions Judge AKM Ishtiaque Hossain handed down the verdict on Hussein Ahmed alias Chhoto Huzur, Shaikh Rabiul Islam and Md Mahmudul Haque. Of them, Chhoto Huzur was tried in absentia.

The court also fined the convicts Tk 10,000 each. If they fail to pay, they will have to suffer one more year's rigorous imprisonment.

Zubair Hossain, another accused in the Imran murder case, however, was acquitted as the charges against him could not be proved.

According to the prosecution, Imran Hossain Rony was slaughtered inside the madrasa at Basupara in the early morning of September 19 in 2004.

Sub Inspector Shabbir Ahmed, who investigated the case, submitted charge sheet against the four accused on February 5 in 2005 and the charges were framed on June 15 the same year.



A rickshawpuller pulls his rickshaw on a dilapidated road in Badda area in the city. The road linking Badda with Gulshan was dug up several months ago to lay sewerage pipes, but no steps have yet been taken to repair it.

DEFAMATION SUIT

Jugantor editor, publisher asked to appear in court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked Jugantor editor, publisher and its proprietor to appear before it on February 21 after former communications minister Barrister Nazmul Huda filed a defamation case against them.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Mizanur Rahman issued the order following the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court seeking an arrest warrant against them from the court.

The defendants are editor Golam Sarwar, publisher Advocate Salma Islam and its proprietor Nurul Islam Babul.

In his complaint, Huda mentioned that the daily ran a news item titled "Nazmul Huda is the first in corruption" that is false, fabricated and concocted and it was done to tarnish his image in the political arena as well as in the society.

500 suffering from filariasis in Rajshahi city

RU CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 500 residents of Rajshahi City Corporation areas are suffering from filariasis, a mosquito-borne parasitic disease, according to a survey.

Niskrity, a local non-government organisation, released the survey report at a press briefing in Rajshahi on Monday.

Speakers at the programme expressed their concern that the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) has failed to control mosquito populations, which are transmitting diseases to city dwellers.

They also said that the authorities did not conduct any anti-mosquito drive in the city in the past three months.

RCC Chief Health Officer Dr Rezvi Sultan, journalist Mustafizur Rahman Khan and civil society members attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, the RCC has taken an initiative to vaccinate around five lakh city dwellers against filariasis in phases.

Dr Rezvi said the first round of vaccination programme has already been completed and the second round will be launched soon.

'Emergency not solution to country's crisis'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Left leaders at a meeting yesterday said safeguarding people's interest is not possible through restricting people's democratic and basic rights, freedom of media and cancelling trade union rights, says a press release.

The state of emergency is not a solution to country's prevailing crisis, rather pro-people left alternative power can free the country from deep crises of looting, militancy and imperialism, leaders observed.

They were speaking at a joint meeting of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Five-left Party and Ganomukti Andolon at CPB office in the city.

They said a mass movement is needed to resist corruption, communalism and foreign interference.

Presided over by CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan, the meeting was addressed by CPB General Secretary Muzahidul Islam Selim, Ruhin Hossain Prince and Jonaed Saki.

'Stop extortion in transport sector'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Road Transport Association, a platform of transport owners of Dhaka city, in a statement yesterday expressed hope that the newly formed caretaker government would be able to conduct a free and fair election in the country.

They urged the caretaker government to stop extortion in the transport sector.

In the statement, Association President Maj Gen (Retd) Abdus Salam said many transport owners incurred a heavy loss in business and got indebted due to extortion.



Joint forces of army and police seize six firearms and 386 illegal bullets from the Mirpur residence of BNP leader and film actor Monwar Hossain Dipjol and his brother Shahadat Hossain on Monday night.